

SEPTEMBER 1977 – NEWSLETTER

A MANY SLENDORED THING

No, it's not love, it's our-- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 1977 at 8:00 P.M., MARITIME MUSEUM, BASTION SQUARE
featuring

GUEST SPEAKER - G. Edward MacFarlane, Restoration Architect, Parks
Canada, with a wealth of experience in the field, will give an illustrated talk.

INVENTORY DISPLAY - a sample of the terrific photos taken to illustrate our
inventory will be on display. This is your chance to see the good work being done
by the Inventory Committee and those hired to complete the inventory.

NEW EXECUTIVE

We don't exactly have a "full" slate for nominations for next year's executive to be
elected at the Annual General Meeting We need nomination for:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Executive Members at Large (3)

We have no nominations for Vice-President or Recording Secretary - - it's up to
you! Phone Don Reksten (592-3512) if you wish to nominate- yourself or anyone
else for any of the above positions. Nominations will also be accepted from the
floor at the Annual General Meeting.

There are also two positions to be filled on the Board of Trustees of the Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society.

ANNUAL REPORT 1976-77

The highlight of the past year undoubtedly was the "New Life for REPORT Old Buildings" Conference held in Vancouver in February. The 1976-77 Hallmark Society was one of the five sponsoring groups for this first-ever B. C.-Yukon heritage conference and it is with pride we note that 11 out of 49 of the conference speakers or moderators were Hallmark members. It was excellent representation of our knowledgeable membership which now numbers over 235. Probably our most visible undertaking was our campaign to save the Jones Building. Starting in January when your executive first became aware of the building's change of ownership and the intention of demolition, every possible means at our disposal was used to urge the Royal Bank and City Council to restore the building as part of the new development. The Royal Bank's attitude never veered from their original intentions, even with the welcome additional support of the Fairfield Community Association, the Fernwood Community Association, the James Bay Residents' League and the Downtown Blanshard Association. Dozens of letter, public meetings, Norm Pearson's well-researched handbill, radio and T.V. publicity, as well as architectural rendering showing in a positive way the Jones Building could be incorporated into a new development were all methods of protest. We have reliable information that the run of withdrawals of accounts protesting the demolition was heavy (did you withdraw yours?), yet as you read this, Samuel Maclure's rare commercial building will be rubble. The finely detailed exterior, as well as the high interior plaster ceilings and tile and marble hallways and office with fireplaces (some behind newer finishes) made this a uniquely west coast building typical of the prosperity of 1912. It will never be seen again. We now can be sure that both City Council and the Royal Bank will think twice before allowing further demolition of heritage buildings. On a much more positive note, although certainly of a quieter nature, it was wonderful news to receive \$43,000 from the Canada Works program to hire six people to

complete the Hallmark Society's inventory of heritage buildings in the Capital Region. Excellent photographs, with complete and detailed histories of each building are being completed and we hope to publish the results in late spring 1978. The Inventory Committee is being ably coordinated by Margaret Hutchison and Ben Manning. That grant is for wages and materials for the inventory only. The day-to-day running of the society still depends on membership dues, sale of hasti-notes, prints etc. So we were especially pleased with the results of our two bazaars, held at HillSide Shopping Centre in October and April, as they brought in \$411.62. Thanks again to all the volunteers and coordinators Isla Tuck and Margaret Hutchison. Other highlights of the Hallmark year included:

- We hosted the B. C, Regional Council of Heritage Canada on October 23, 1976 (official opening of our office)
- Alkazar Apartments (1918) 1206 Fairfield Road. Demolished.
- Hampton Court Apartments (1908?) Cook Street. Saved: Purchased by Mr. Elworthy for upgrading and preservation.
- Hallmark Society Heritage Preservation Awards Night, February 23, 1977 at Jim Lee's house. A great party! (as usual)
- The Life (and loves) of architect F. M. Rattenbury March 23, 1977 saw a large crowd attend Terry Reksten's fascinating illustrated lecture
- A sequel in Our Great Architects series was presented by Al Kerr on Percy Leonard James, April 27 1977.
- Cresta Linda (Fort and Linden) and 1040-42 Linden Avenue. Demolished.
- Hosted Vancouver Historical Society Bus Tour. May 7, 1977 •
- Walking Tours of Old Town. June 8, 1977.
- The Crystal Gardens--West Coast Pleasure Palace book published and on sale for \$7.95 and \$40.00.

- Jones Building (1912). Demolished.

Heritage Building Clinic (free advice in conjunction with the City: Heritage Advisory Committee; local architects, and the Hallmark Society) starts September 1977 from our office. Watch for it! In all, a busy and constructive year with both advances and setbacks. Many of the executive having spent two (or more years on the executive are retiring this year, though I know they won't be far away. Thanks very much to all the 1976-77 executive for a job well done. Stuart Stark.

CRYSTAL BOOK A SUCCESS

It may not be a best-seller yet, but the Crystal Gardens BOOK A Preservation Society is working on it. Book sales in the first SUCCESS few weeks have been brisk to say the least in Victoria as well as in Vancouver.

Now that many of you have seen what fascinating, high-quality book it is, we have no doubts about selling out out first printing very soon. The Preservation Society would like to give a special thanks to all the Hallmark Society members who pre-ordered books--sight unseen= and helped things go into production. Thanks should also go to all those who are handling distribution. It is no small task and all are unpaid volunteers. Remember, Christmas is coming and you can't give a finer gift for \$7.95!! There is still room for orders for the \$40 limited (250 copies). hardcover edition, but don't wait too long. This edition should be ready by the end of September.

COMMITTEE Members: C. Smyly, M. Hutchison, J. Sewell The Committee's main task this first year has been to devise a cataloguing system and file the reams of newspaper clippings that have been piling up since 1973. The not so exciting task of trimming and taping the clippings onto sheets was done by the office workers and mainly by Jill Sewell who also did the cataloguing.

CRYSTAL SAVED AT LAST!

It was announced on September 8th that the Provincial Government SAVED had accepted the City's offer to take the Crystal for \$1.00. As yet, no use for the restored building has been determined. We wish to congratulate the Government for their action.